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## PSYCHOLOGICAL LITERATURE.

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*The Nature of Truth; an Essay*, by H. H. JOACHIM. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1906. pp. 182.

*Pragmatism, a New Name for Some Old Ways of Thinking; popular lectures on philosophy*, by W. JAMES. New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1907. pp. xiii, 309.

These two works lie too far beyond the confines of psychology to receive detailed treatment in a psychological journal. They offer, however, an excellent illustration of that fundamental difference of temperament which Professor James lays at the basis of all philosophical differences; and they remind us that the psychology of temperament is so far in its earliest infancy.

Mr. Joachim dismisses pragmatism, in his preface, as unworthy of serious consideration. "In substance the doctrine remains what Plato proved it to be: not a new theory of truth, but a denial of truth altogether." His own object is to "examine certain typical notions of truth, one or other of which . . . has hitherto served as the basis of philosophical speculation." The first of these regards truth as correspondence; the second, as a quality of entities entirely independent of mind; and the third as coherence. These are discussed in as many consecutive chapters, and the essay concludes with a fourth chapter on the negative element and error. The upshot is that "the coherence notion fails of complete success; but it has carried us further into the heart of the problem than either of the other two notions, and it has maintained itself against difficulties to which they succumbed."

Professor James—who does not fail to signalize the mainly negative outcome of Mr. Joachim's essay as, in so far, an argument in his own behalf—presents pragmatism, in eight Lowell lectures, as essentially a mediator, methodologically and metaphysically, between absolute idealism and empiricism. The lectures deal with the present dilemma in philosophy—namely, the antithesis just mentioned; the meaning of pragmatism as method; the pragmatic attitude to some metaphysical problems, such as substance, God, free will, design, the one and the many; the relation of pragmatism to common sense; pragmatism's conception of truth; pragmatism and humanism; pragmatism and religion. The book makes delightful reading; but it does not appear that the fundamental confusion often charged to the account of the pragmatist, the confusion of truth with knowledge of truth, is finally cleared up. And it may be doubted whether the middle position finally recommended will satisfy many temperaments, since a temperament, however mixed its origin and character, generally leans with some bias to the one philosophical side or to the other. To put the matter crudely, Professor James will probably be too religious for the non-religious, and not religious enough for the religiously minded.

P. E. WINTER.

*Essay on the Creative Imagination*, by T. RIBOT. Translated from the French by A. H. N. BARON. Chicago, Open Court Publishing Co., 1906. pp. xix, 370.

M. Ribot holds an unique position among descriptive psychologists.

Every few years he calls attention, in an elaborate essay, to some field of work—general ideas, affective memory, creative imagination, the passions—that has so far been neglected, whether by the descriptive or by the experimental school. The combination of a strong systematic bent with a high degree of literary skill makes this series of books doubly valuable; they are found readable by the general educated public, and they offer to the psychologist, without pretence of finality, a conspectus of fact and opinion gleaned from scattered sources and arranged on a workable plan. Mr. Baron's translation is, therefore, most welcome; we may safely predict that one of its results will be the carrying of various part-problems of imagination into the laboratories. The translation itself, while by no means sympathetic, appears to be accurate. The proof-reading of the book has been very carelessly done.

P. E. WINTER.

*Text Book of Psychiatry, a psychological study of insanity*, by DR. E. MENDEL. Authorized Translation. Edited and enlarged by WM. C. KRAUSS. F. A. DAVIS, Philadelphia, 1907. pp. 311.

The psychiatric clinic is now obligatory to medical students in most countries and schools, and in Berlin since 1901 has been a topic on which all doctors must be examined. There are of course very many excellent texts on the subject in German, but the author here tries to present it in a general perspective to enable students to fill up the gaps in the clinic and to reduce all to its proper time and place. The author himself stands in the front rank of German men of science and for thirty years has been a leader in Germany and also distinguished by his hospitality to Americans. The plan of the book represents Mendel's latest views of classification. Under general symptomatology he discusses disturbances of sensation, of thought, memory, feeling, judgment, conscious action, including speech, and has a pregnant chapter on physiological disturbances in the condition of the body, including physical degeneracy, motility, reflections, basal motor nerves and internal organs. Under etiology, a chapter on statistics discusses the factors favoring breaking out of disease, such as puberty, climacteric and old age. Direct causes are classified as psychic, somatic and mixed. Outbreaks may be transitory, acute, or chronic. There are sections on pathological anatomy, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment. Then he discusses special psychiatry, imbecility, idiocy and psychosis, hallucination, mania, melancholia, circular psychosis, acute dementia, psychosis from central neuroses such as epilepsy, hysteria and chorea, with a special section on intoxication. Then follows an account of the psychosis due to thyroid trouble, to poisons from without, to organic and inorganic poisons. Under organic psychosis he discusses diffused diseases of the cortex including progressive paralysis, senile dementia, arterial sclerotic psychosis and apoplexy. The work ends with instructions for examining a person mentally diseased and for rendering an opinion.

*Psychology Applied to Medicine, an introductory study*, by DAVID W. WELLS. DAVIS, Philadelphia, 1907. pp. 141.

The author thinks the proposition "all disease is mental" seems so absurd to the medically trained man that he is apt to ignore the fact that some disease is mental. He advocates psycho-therapeutics, including hypnotism in special cases. Indeed, this mode of cure began with Edward the Confessor, in the eleventh century, who cured the king's evil. The author repudiates Mrs. Eddy, metaphysical healers and theosophists, agrees with Wetterstrand that there is no better cure for insomnia than hypnosis and that special soporifics are injurious. He believes that sometimes hypnosis helps neuralgia, stam-